

PRINTER RUSH
(PTO ASSISTANCE)

Application : <u>09/46,280</u>	Examiner : <u>Krizer</u>	GAU : <u>3652</u>
From: <u>MR</u>	Location: <u>(IDC) FMF FDC</u>	Date: <u>04-23-05</u>

Tracking #: 06073751 Week Date: 02-07-05

DOC CODE	DOC DATE	MISCELLANEOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> 1449	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Data
<input type="checkbox"/> IDS	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foreign Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> CLM	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Document Legibility
<input type="checkbox"/> IIFW	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fees
<input type="checkbox"/> SRFW	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> DRW	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> OATH	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 312	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> SPEC	_____	

[RUSH] MESSAGE: A 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) foreign priority
claim cannot be based on a U.S. application.
Please make all necessary corrections to file
wrapper and specification. See MPEP 1893.03(c),
Priority claim Under 35 U.S.C. 120.

[XRUSH] RESPONSE: Corrected.

INITIALS: def

NOTE: This form will be included as part of the official USPTO record, with the Response document coded as XRUSH.
REV 10/04

**MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL AND METHOD
FOR RECOVERING, STORING AND/OR TRANSPORTING
AND OFF-LOADING MATERIAL
IN A DREDGING OPERATION**

This application claims the benefit of Provisional Application
Nos. 60/094,578, filed Jul. 28, 1998; 60/094,633, filed Jul. 30, 1998;
60/095,797, filed Aug. 7, 1998; 60/098,160, filed Aug. 27, 1998, and 60/102,654,
filed Oct. 1, 1998.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates generally to dredging, and, more particularly,
to a multi-purpose vessel and method for recovering, storing and/or
transporting, and off-loading material in a dredging operation.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Due largely to erosion, the waterways of many areas of the world are
becoming choked with silt and the like. As the waterways become more and
more shallow, certain problems arise. For example, navigation through the
waterways becomes difficult or altogether impossible. In addition, the risk
of flooding adjoining areas of a waterway increases as the depth of the
waterway decreases.

Over the years, many dredging techniques have been devised.
Perhaps the most popular dredging technique involves a vacuuming dredge
which sucks silt and the like from the bottom of the waterway through a
conduit or a hose. This technique is disadvantageous in several respects.
For example, it collects large volumes of water in the dredging process. As
a result, the material recovered by this dredging technique is largely a liquid
mixture that is difficult to handle and dispose of. By way of another
example, the vacuuming technique mentioned above tends to disturb the bed
of the waterway in a manner that mixes silt and impurities imbedded in the
silt into the water. Some of these impurities may be toxic (e.g., lead and
mercury). Dredging with this old technique can, therefore, pose an
environmental hazard. Due to these and other difficulties, dredging a
waterway using the vacuuming technique is an expensive, time-consuming
and hazardous proposition.



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Bib Data Sheet

CONFIRMATION NO. 3654

SERIAL NUMBER 09/486,280	FILING OR 371(c) DATE 02/24/2000 RULE	CLASS 414	GROUP ART UNIT 3652	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 29038/10006
APPLICANTS DENNIS R. THOMAS, PEORIA, IL; MICHAEL D. PLATT, YATES CITY, IL; EDWARD S. KRESS, BRIMFIELD, IL;				
** CONTINUING DATA ***** This application is a 371 of PCT/US99/16972 07/28/1999 which claims benefit of 60/094,378 07/28/1998 and claims benefit of 60/094,633 07/30/1998 and claims benefit of 60/095,797 08/07/1998 and claims benefit of 60/098,160 08/27/1998 and claims benefit of 60/102,654 10/01/1998				
** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS *****				
IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED ** 04/25/2000				
Foreign Priority claimed <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no 35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> Met after met Allowance Verified and Acknowledged		STATE OR COUNTRY IL	SHEETS DRAWING 19	TOTAL CLAIMS 45
Examiner's Signature _____ Initials _____		INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 7		
ADDRESS Husch & Eppenberg, LLC Robert C. Haldiman 190 Carondelet Plaza St. Louis ,MO 63105				
TITLE DREDGING VESSEL AND METHOD FOR RECOVERING, TRANSPORTING AND OFF LOADING MATERIAL				
FILING FEE RECEIVED 801	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:		<input type="checkbox"/> All Fees <input type="checkbox"/> 1.16 Fees (Filing) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.18 Fees (Issue) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Credit	